

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Introduction

This response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 21, 2006. The deadline for responding has been extended to May 21, 2007 by way of a request for a 2 month extension of time made herewith. Claims 1, 11, and 20 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 7, 9, and 17 have been amended to be placed in independent form. Claims 1-20 are now pending. No new matter has been introduced in the claims.

Claims 1-6, 8, 11-16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application 20040202171 to Hama (hereinafter "Hama application").

Claims 7, 9, 10, and 17-19 stand objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this allowability, and these claims have been put into independent form.

Applicant will now address and overcome each of the Examiner's objections and rejections.

II. Claims 1-6, 8, 11-16, and 20 are Patentable over the Hama application

The Hama application discloses interfacing a VLAN packet network with an MPLS packet network. VLAN headers are swapped with MPLS headers in routing tables, and vice versa, in order to cause packets to traverse through the combined VLAN and MPLS networks.

The examiner has cited paragraphs [0072], [0073], [0083], [0085], [0086], [0087], [0088], [0099], [0102], [0103], [0105], and Figures 2, 9, and 16 as anticipating applicant's claims 1, 11, and 20 (the independent claims).

Applicant is unable to find in those cited portions of Figures “generating a MAC address received in a header of a frame in a forwarding table”, or “creating an entry in an address resolution table of a MAC address provided in the data portion of a message”. There is certainly no reference in the cited passages or drawings of extracting MAC addresses from two different portions of a message (header and data portions) and placing both MAC addresses in two different tables, respectively. Applicant cannot even find a reference to identifying two MAC addresses from one message of any kind.

For example, paragraph [0085] of the Hama application describes storing MAC addresses of MAC A, B, and C in table 125, but there is no reference to finding other MAC addresses within the same messages and populating another table with those addresses.

In paragraph [0103], the device receiving the ARP packet “imposes its own MAC address on an ARP-replay packet and sends back this packet.” Again, there is no teaching or suggestion of extracting two MAC addresses from a message, to say nothing of extracting one MAC address from the data portion of the message and another MAC address from the header.

Claim 1 states: “*generating, in a forwarding table, a MAC address forwarding table entry from a MAC address included in a header of a frame received by said edge router*” and “*creating an entry in an address resolution table associating an assigned IP address with said MAC address provided in the data portion of said message*”.

There is also no teaching or suggestion in the cited passages of monitoring a communications session between a device on a network which uses MAC addresses with a server responsible for assigning IP addresses. There is no teaching of “monitoring” any communications between two devices. All of the communications in the Hama application appear to be either transmitted by or received by the devices in question, without any network elements “monitoring” sessions between two devices. Further, there is no mention of a server responsible for assigning IP addresses at all.

Claim 1 states: *"monitoring a communications session between a device on a network which uses MAC addresses with a server responsible for assigning IP addresses to detect assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of a message from said device"*.

Further, there is no teaching in the Hama application of detecting assignment of an IP address, to say nothing of detecting the assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of said message.

Claim 1 states: *"upon detecting assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of said message"*.

And finally, there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited portions of the Hama application of creating an entry in an address resolution table associating an assigned IP address with said MAC address **provided in the data portion of said message**.

Claim 1 states: *"creating an entry in an address resolution table associating an assigned IP address with said MAC address provided in the data portion of said message"*.

To sum up, below is claim 1, as amended, with the portions **not found** in the cited reference highlighted:

Claim 1: A method of operating a communications system including an edge router, the method comprising:
operating said edge router to perform the steps of:
generating, in a forwarding table, a MAC address forwarding table entry from a MAC address included in a header of a frame received by said edge router;
monitoring a communications session between a device on a network which uses MAC addresses with a server responsible for assigning IP addresses to detect assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of a message from said device; and
upon detecting assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of said message, creating an entry in an address resolution table associating an assigned IP address with said MAC address provided in the data portion of said message.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that **claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the cited reference. Claims 2-6 and 8, being dependent on allowable claim 1, are likewise patentable.**

The Examiner cites the same passages and drawings of the Hama application against independent claims 11 and 20. Below are those claims with the portions **not found** in the cited reference highlighted:

Claim 11: A communication system comprising:
an edge router including:
 means for generating, in a forwarding table, a MAC address forwarding table entry from a MAC address included in a header of a frame received by said edge router;
 means for monitoring a communications session between a device on a network which uses MAC addresses with a server responsible for assigning IP addresses to detect assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of a message from said device; and
 means for creating an entry in an address resolution table associating an assigned IP address with said MAC address provided in the data portion of said message upon detecting assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of said message.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that **claim 11, as amended, is patentable over the cited reference. Claims 12-16, being dependent on allowable claim 11, are likewise patentable.**

Claim 20: A machine-readable medium, comprising a set of machine-readable instructions for controlling a machine to perform the steps of:
 generating, in a forwarding table, a MAC address forwarding table entry from a MAC address included in a header of a frame received by said edge router;
 monitoring a communications session between a device on a network which uses MAC addresses with a server responsible for assigning IP addresses to detect assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of a message from said device; and
 upon detecting assignment of an IP address corresponding to a MAC address provided in a data portion of said message,

creating an entry in an address resolution table associating an assigned IP address with said MAC address provided in the data portion of said message.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that **claim 20, as amended, is patentable over the cited reference.**

III. Claims 7, 9, 10, and 17-19, as amended, are Patentable

The Examiner has found claims 7, 9, 10 and 17-19 to contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if placed in independent form, incorporating all limitations of the base claims and intervening claims. These claims have been so amended.

Therefore, claims 7, 9, 10, and 17-19, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-20, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicant requests that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by phone to discuss and hopefully resolve said issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to Patent Office deposit account number 50-1049.

May 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Straub

Michael P. Straub, Attorney

Reg. No. 36,941

Tel.: (732) 542-9070

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent Office on the date shown below.

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Signature

May 21, 2007

Date